

ing such afflicting news of her husband. I give but little credence as to their death by drowning, as the letter is dated three days after the supposed casualty, & speaks of having been with Dr. Knox on Pablo Bay on the 28th, & having returned to the City on *the 30th*.

I reached home ab't three weeks ago from a lengthy Western tour. Spent a day with Geo. Graham at the Farm near Memphis, both going and returning. Geo's appearance is much improved, & I think he has grown into a steady business man. He married a pretty & clever Lady, near Holly Springs, ab't three weeks before my return. His Sister, Lydia, married last Winter.

At Memphis we (there was seven of us) took boat for N. Orleans, from thence a Steam Ship to Galveston, Texas, where we tarried a day for the ship to unload, & where I met an acquaintance of yours, Gen'l M. Hunt,¹²⁶ whose views were of service to me in my travel thro' Texas. From Galveston we went to Indianola, at present the Gov. shipping point on Laraca Bay. Here we Bo't Mustang Ponies, and travelled due North up the Guadalupe River, some two hundred miles. This country is entirely prairie, no timber for great distances, except narrow belts or strips on the water courses. The soil is cov'd with marl, very fertile, and as level as the bed of the Ocean in a calm, well adapted to the culture of Sugar, Cotton or grain, but it is more noted just now for fine stock. I had no idea that Cattle grew so large 'till I saw those on the Guadalupe, we were credibly informed (& the appearance seemed to justify the belief) that the average weight of the four year old was from two to three thousand lbs., & what is very surprising to we of the old States, they attain this great weight not only without feeding, but even without being salted, the breezes from the Gulf depositing sufficient saline matter upon the grass to answer the requirements of nature.

The Musquite is the natural grass, coming very early in the Spring, & then again in Sept., & remaining green all winter. The climate of this region, I take to be unfavorable to health, & the population a mixture of the *Low Dutch* & Mexican.

From Gonzales on the Guadalupe, we travelled due East, crossing the Colorado at Lagrange, the Brazos at Washington, the

¹²⁶ Memucan Hunt (1807-1856), of Texas, a native of North Carolina, where he became a planter and businessman. He moved to Mississippi, and, at the outbreak of the Texas Revolution, raised a company for service there. He was closely associated with Thomas Jefferson Green. He was made a major general in 1836, and raised many troops and spent large sums of money in the cause. He was envoy and minister to the United States where he worked for annexation. He was for a time Secretary of the Navy, and served as a private in the Mexican War.